

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ITFE-05 SSO-00 SR-02 AID-05

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM IMMEDIATE

SECDEF/JCS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142533

FROM JULIA TAFT FOR CHARGE';CINCPACREP FOR CIVIL COORD.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT:RELOCATION OF INDOCHINA REFUGEE REPATRIANTS

1. BECAUSE OF IMMINENT TYPHOON DANGER WE HAVE BEEN TRYING
TO MOVE INDOCHINA REFUGEES FROM GUAM AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.
THOSE WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN US ARE BEING
TRANSFERRED TO CONUS CAMPS. WE PLANNED MOVE FROM GUAM TO
WAKE APPLICANTS FOR REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM. HOWEVER,
THIS GROUP IS RESISTING ON GROUNDS, AMONG OTHERS, THAT
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TRANSFER TO WAKE WOULD TAKE THEM FARTHER FROM VIET-NAM

RATHER THAN CLOSER AND ARE THREATENING PUBLIC PROTEST. KEEPING THEM ON GUAM WITH OTHER REFUGEES COULD ALSO LEAD TO POSSIBLE CONFLICTS.

2. I AM THEREFORE SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATE LOCATION, WHERE REPATRIANTS PRESENTLY IN GUAM AND WAKE COULD BE HOUSED IN REASONABLE COMFORT AND SECURITY, ISOLATED FROM OTHER REFUGEES, UNTIL THEY COULD GO HOME. THE UNHCR COULD BE REPRESENTED IN SUCH A CAMP, AS IT HAS BEEN AT GUAM. THERE ARE A LITTLE OVER 1500 APPLICANTS FOR REPATRIATION ON GUAM AND WAKE, AND THEY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FILL OUT UNHCR QUESTIONNAIRE IN ORDER TO BE RELOCATED. SAIGON MUST STILL ACCEPT REPATRIANTS, HOWEVER, ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

3. I SHOULD APPRECIATE YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER GOP WOULD AGREE TO TRANSFER OF REPATRIANTS TO SUBIC BAY, PROVIDED USG GUARANTEED THAT THEY WOULD NOT REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN THE PHILIPPINES. UNHCR ANTICIPATES THAT MOVEMENT BACK TO VIET-NAM MAY BEGIN WITHIN A FEW WEEKS AND THAT, ONCE BEGUN, IT COULD PROCEED RAPIDLY. THOSE WHO ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE RESETTLED IN THE US OR ELSEWHERE. UNLIKE THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED WHEN REFUGEES WERE FLOODING INTO THE PHILIPPINES AFTER FLEEING FROM VIET-NAM, THIS MOVEMENT ON THE WAY BACK SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT STRAIN THE GOP'S RELATIONS WITH THE NEW VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AND MIGHT INDEED IMPROVE THEM.

4. WE REALIZE THAT THIS MAY PLACE SOME STRAIN ON OUR BASE RIGHTS, BUT CONSIDER THAT FOLLOWING THREE FACTORS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED: (1) SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES INVOLVED, (2) AS MENTIONED ABOVE, RETURN FLOW COULD BE OF BENEFIT TO GOP-PRG RELATIONS, AND (3) OUR ASSURANCE THAT REFUGEE SOJOURN STRICTLY TEMPORARY.

5. AN EARLY REPLY IS REQUESTED, AS THINNING OUT OF REFUGEE POPULATION IS URGENT. KISSINGER

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